

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT. KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREANS ASSIST MALTESE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

REF: A. MEMCON (PENNINGER/FORD), FEBRUARY 27, 1975 (NOTAL)

B. VALLETTA 1349, AUGUST 13, 1974

1. A THREE-MAN NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PREMIER CHAL DJAL U. (SIC) VISITED MALTA FEBRUARY 23-27. THE VICE PREMIER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY RI GI SON, VICE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND PIN CHI SO OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THEIR VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY THAT OF A FOUR-MAN DELEGATION WHO ARRIVED FEBRUARY 18 TO MAKE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS. THE ADVANCE PARTY CONSISTED OF KIM HAKU, VICE MINISTER FROM THE COMMISSION OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY; YU PU CHEL, DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY; ZUN EL CHUN, CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC SECTION AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY; AND CHOY HYUN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. CAPPING HIS VISIT, VICE PREMIER CHAL DJAI U. SIGNED AN AGEEMENT WITH THE GOM TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRIES IN MALTA,
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SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING A TOOL FACTORY. THE AGREEMENT, BILLED

BY THE GOM AS A FOLLOW UP TO TALKS HELD DURING DRIME MINISTER MINTOFF'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORTH KOREA IN JANUARY 1975, ALSO CALLED FOR NORTH KOREA TO PROVIDE EXPERTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER AGREED UPON, BUT UNSPECIFIED, PROJECTS. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FREDDIE MICALLEF SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOM.

3. WHEN A THIRD NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION ARRIVED FEBRUARY 28, EVEN THE PRO-GOM "MALTA NEWS" RELEGATED THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE BACK PAGE. THE LATEST ARRIVALS ARE HAN SU GIL, MINISTER FOR TRADE, AND THREE UNNAMED ASSISTANTS, WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE COME TO CONDUCT TALKS WITH THE GOM ON INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND TRADE.

4. THE VISITS TO MALTA BY THE THREE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATIONS OVERLAP THAT OF PHILIP APLEYARD, HEAD OF THE FISHERIES SECTION OF THE FAO. APLEYARD'S PRESENCE LENDS SUBSTANCE TO OTHER REPORTS (SEE REF. A) THAT A FISHERIES PROJECT MAY SOON BE INITIATED IN MALTA INVOLVING NORTH KOREAN ASSISTANCE.

5. COMMENT: THE EXCESSIVE ATTENTION BEING PAID TO MALTA BY THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT DOUBTLESS RESULTS FROM MINTOFF'S RECENT VISIT THERE, BUT IN ADDITION IT COULD REPRESENT AN ECONOMIC REPAYMENT FOR MALTESE POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE U.N. IN THIS REGARD, MINTOFF IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN PYONGYANG IN JANUARY: "FOR US IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES FORCES TO LEAVE SOUTH KOREA.

"YOUR STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE AND YOUR CAUSE IS OUR CAUSE. WE SHALL THEREFORE REMAIN SOLIDLY BEHIND YOU IN YOUR SEARCH FOR A UNITED KOREA IN PEACE AND FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. WE SHALL SUPPORT YOU EVERYWHERE AND AT ALL TIMES; IN THE UNITED NATIONS, IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ARENAS AND ALSO IN OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL STATES."

6. NOTE: SPELLING OF ALL KOREAN NAMES IS AS REPORTED BY GOM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION. SMITH

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